



## LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### Proposed Improvement US 6 & US 421 in LaPorte County

**The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on February 15, 2023 Open house to begin at 5:00 PM CST with hearing to follow at 6:00 PM CST at the Westville Middle/Senior High School, 207 E. Valparaiso St., Westville, IN 46391.** The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans for US 6 & US 421 in LaPorte County. The purpose of the project is to provide safer travel for motorists at the US 6 and US 421 intersection by reducing the number of crashes associated with westbound vehicles running the stop sign or failing to yield once stopped. The need for this project stems from the high number of crashes at US 6 and US 421 resulting from westbound traffic running the stop sign or failing to yield once stopped. Crash data provided by the LaPorte District for the three-year analysis period from January 2014 to September 2016 documents 16 crashes involving 32 vehicles within the project limits. This data indicates that the Intersection Crash Rate is 1.715 crashes per million vehicles per year. This crash rate is at INDOT's safety threshold.

As proposed, the project involves constructing a single-lane roundabout to reduce the number of crashes, as right-angle type crashes would be eliminated. The roundabout would have single-lane entries, exits, and a circulatory roadway. This project would include:

- Installing splitter islands to extend with the center curb on all but the west approach
- Adding a chicane to the east approach alignment
- Installing new lighting and reusing or replacing existing lighting
- Adding curbing for speed control
- Replace and install stormwater pipes beneath the roadway pavement

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project involves a road closure using an official detour. The detour route for US 6 will utilize SR 39, US 30, and SR 49. This detour would add approximately 13.4 miles and 0.25 hours of added travel for motorists. The detour route for US 421 will utilize US 30, SR 49, and SR 2. This detour would add approximately 10.4 miles and 0.25 hours of added travel for motorists. The detours are anticipated to be in place for approximately four months. All adjacent properties will have access through the detoured route. MOT details will be presented during the public hearing. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. INDOT will coordinate with emergency services, local school corporation officials, and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible. The project will require approximately 0.053 acre of permanent new right-of-way.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used to construct this project, \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2024 funds. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact on the natural environment. Therefore, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) level one environmental document has been prepared for the project. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

1. Westville Public Library, 153 Main St. Westville, IN 46391
2. INDOT Laporte District Office 315 E. Boyd Blvd; LaPorte, IN 46350; Toll Free: 855-INDOT4U (463-6848)
3. [INDOT: Welcome to the LaPorte District](#)

**Emergency Situation Guidance:** During emergency situations, public viewing locations may be limited or prohibited as part of the Notice of Planned Improvement. Project documents may only be available on-line during emergency situations. The notice must offer the public the opportunity to request project documents be mailed. INDOT and/or the project sponsor will mail project documents upon request.

A project webpage will be created prior to the public hearing to ensure project information is available on-line via the INDOT LaPorte District page ([INDOT: Welcome to the LaPorte District](#)).

Public statements for the record will be taken as part of the public hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during and for a period of two (2) weeks following the hearing date, will be evaluated, considered and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to GAI Consultants, 9998 Crosspoint Blvd., Suite 110, Indianapolis, IN 46256. E-Mail: [k.mcmullen@gaiconsultants.com](mailto:k.mcmullen@gaiconsultants.com) **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by March 02, 2023.**

With advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should an accommodation be required please contact Amy Stanley, INDOT LaPorte District, [astanley@indot.in.gov](mailto:astanley@indot.in.gov) 219-325-7475.

## **WINTER WEATHER NOTICE**

**In the event of inclement weather resulting in hazardous driving conditions, please call the Indiana Department of Transportation's LaPorte District at (855)464-6368 or INDOT Customer Service at 855-INDOT4U (463-6848) to learn of any postponement of the public hearing. If the public hearing is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled and the public comment period would be extended.**

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) states: "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program." 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary." approved by the Federal Highway Administration, US Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.